

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 917.39

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 917.36 Expenses.

Each commodity committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by the said commodity committee during each fiscal period for the maintenance and functioning of such committee, including its proportionate share of the expenses of the Control Committee; and for such research and service activities relating to handling of the fruit for which the commodity committee was established as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided in § 917.37.

§ 917.37 Assessments.

(a) As his/her pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by the commodity committees during a fiscal period, each handler shall pay to the Control Committee, upon demand, assessments on all fruit handled by him/her. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committees may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the respective rate of assessment, which handlers shall pay with respect to each fruit during each fiscal period in an amount designed to secure sufficient funds to cover the respective expenses, which may be incurred during such period. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rates of assessment in order to secure funds to cover any later findings by the Secretary relative to such expenses, and such increase shall apply to all fruit shipped during the fiscal period. Furthermore, any assessment not paid by a peach handler within a period of time prescribed by the Control Committee may be subject to an interest or late payment charge, or both. The period of time, rate of interest and late payment charge shall be as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. Subsequent to

such approval, all assessments for peaches not paid within the prescribed period of time shall be subject to an interest or late payment charge or both.

(c) In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the commodity committee prior to commencement of shipments in any season, shippers may make advance payments of assessments, which advance payments shall be credited to such shippers and the assessments of such shippers shall be adjusted so that such assessments are based upon the quantity of fruit shipped by such shippers during such season. Any shipper who ships fruit for the account of a grower may deduct, from the account of sale covering such shipment or shipments, the amount of assessments levied on said fruit shipped for the account of such grower.

[71 FR 41352, July 21, 2006]

§ 917.38 Accounting.

If, at the end of a fiscal period the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, each commodity committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: *Provided*, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (1) to cover any expenses authorized by this part and (2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in a reserve, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund shall be credited with such refund against the operations of the following fiscal period or be paid such refund. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: *Provided*, That, to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

RESEARCH

§ 917.39 Production research, market research and development.

The committees, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide